



City of Gaithersburg Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Gaithersburg to Recognize Fallen Soldiers with Virtual Memorial Day Observance

Video Remarks by Colonel Judson E. Stailey, United States Air Force (Retired)

Gaithersburg, MD – (May 1, 2020) Loyalty and patriotism will be on full display as the City of Gaithersburg joins the nation in honoring all who have given their lives in military service with a virtual Memorial Day Observance. The pre-recorded video observance will be shared on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#) on Saturday, May 30, 2020. The community is invited to participate by sharing images of loved ones and friends who have served in the military. We will include the images in our virtual tribute to all who have defended our freedoms over the years. Please send photos to cityhall@gaithersburgmd.gov by May 15. Use “Memorial Day” in the subject line, and please include the name of the person in the image.

The May 30 virtual observance will feature video remarks by guest speaker Colonel Judson “Jud” E. Stailey, United States Air Force (Retired). During his 30-year Air Force career, Colonel Stailey earned three National Defense Service Medals, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Special Achievement Award Medal, three Air Force Organizational Excellence Awards, and two Outstanding Unit Awards. Upon retirement in 2002, Colonel Stailey was awarded the Legion of Merit for “exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services.” Read more about him [here](#).

The patriotic virtual ceremony will include words and music to commemorate the occasion. Mayor Jud Ashman will deliver opening remarks and newly appointed Junior Mayor Hayden Sandlin will lead the community in the Pledge of Allegiance. Young Artist Award 2nd place vocal winner Fiona Feingold will perform the national anthem and 3rd place vocal winner John Lewis, with his sister Maren (2019 2nd place vocal winner), will perform “God Bless America.” “Taps” will be played by Gaithersburg High School Band member Kaylee Dobbins over a montage of video and images of past wreath-laying ceremonies. Please participate in our virtual ceremony and send images of service members to be included in the video to cityhall@gaithersburgmd.gov by May 15.

For more information, please contact Dorthy Winder at 240-805-1537 or e-mail Dorthy.Winder@gaithersburgmd.gov. Learn more about the virtual Facebook event and RSVP [here](#).

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